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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

8 November 1951

SUBJECT: NIE-36/1: PROSPECTS FOR THE SURVIVAL OF A NON-COMMUNIST REGIME IN BURMA

THE PROBLEM

To review the conclusions of NIE-36 "Prospects for Survival of a Non-Communist Regime in Burma" dated 1 August 1951.

ESTIMATE

1. In NIE-36 it was estimated that the Communists "will probably be able within the next year or two to achieve de facto control over a considerable area of northern Burma" and that if covert Chinese Communist aid to the Burmese Communists continues "the Burmese Government is not likely to survive in the long run unless it greatly increases its political and military strength."

2. Since the publication of NIE-36, reports from generally reliable sources indicate that the situation in Burma is

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deteriorating more rapidly than had been anticipated. The substance of these reports is as follows:

- a. The Chinese Communists are increasing their logistic support to the Burmese Communists;
- b. Considerable numbers of Chinese advisory personnel are now in northern Burma, including many with Communist military units;
- c. Substantial numbers of Burmese Communists are receiving training and equipment in Communist China;
- d. The strength of the organized insurgents is increasing (the current Burmese Government estimate is more than three times as large as it was a few months ago);
- e. The Communists are making progress toward an alliance with the Karens;
- f. The Thakin Nu Government is becoming increasingly unstable and there is an immediate danger that Thakin Nu may be replaced by the left-wing Socialist leader, Ba Swe, who is closely associated with the Communists.

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3. Therefore, unless the Burmese Government (1) can exert a greater effort against the Communist insurgents than it has in the past, (2) can be induced to accept substantial outside aid without delay, and (3) is prepared to meet the minimum demands of the Karens, we estimate that the Communists may achieve control over large areas of northern Burma within the next few months and control over the whole of Burma within the next year.

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